

**From:** Littleton, Christine  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 3:03 PM  
**To:** Nogi, Jill; Somers, Elaine  
**Subject:** FW: Noise impacts - DoD Projects  
**Attachments:** EPA comments on Divert Activities DEIS.pdf; EPA Comments on Divert Activities DEIS.docx; R9 Issue paper - noise impacts.pdf; EPA comments on Divert Activities RDEIS.pdf

Some helpful info from R9 . . .

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**From:** Vitulano, Karen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2017 3:00 PM  
**To:** Littleton, Christine <Littleton.Christine@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Noise impacts - DoD Projects

Hi Tina – Thanks for taking noise issues seriously! Please see attached DEIS letter for Divert Activities – this was the first letter we rated EO for noise. I’m attaching the Word version as well, and my noise “issue paper” which I wrote in 2013 but skimmed it and it’s still useful and applicable. Good luck and let me know if you have any questions.

For Divert – our noise comments actually influenced the project. They made some changes and removed the loud jet fighters and the noise impacts were substantially reduced. But they did something very disturbing in the Revised DEIS and Final EIS – they averaged noise taking place over 8 weeks of training over a year period to dilute it. This is clearly not how the receivers experience noise and we commented strongly – see attached comments on the Revised DEIS cover letter. Really don't want to see this as a precedent so if you ever see this, please consider commenting strongly. I even started putting it in scoping comments for new projects just in case they are thinking of it: a recent scoping comment for a Legislative EIS:

## Noise Impacts

As part of the noise impact assessment, we recommend the draft LEIS include compiled data from any noise complaints that have occurred during the last 20 years. The Air Force should ensure that the region of influence in the analysis includes those areas generating noise complaints. When noise impacts are assessed, we strongly recommend against averaging predicted noise levels over long periods of time when training is not occurring. Estimated noise levels should reflect sound as it generally would be experienced by human receptors (taking into account any nighttime penalty incorporated into the metric). Noise impacts to wildlife should also be discussed.

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